UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Conrad

DATE: 1/31/64

FROM : L. D. Griffith

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY
DALLAS, TEXAS, 11/22/63
REQUEST BY INVESTIGATIVE COMMISSION

On 1/27 and 28/64 SA Lyndal L. Shaneyfelt met with attorneys at the Commission investigating the President's assassination at which the amateur film of one Mr. Zapruder was reviewed. Attorneys for the Commission requested a further study of the speed of the film in the camera used in making the film to determine the variation in film speed between a camera with the spring drive fully wound and the speed of the film as the spring runs down. This was approved as a result of a memorandum from W. D. Griffith to Mr. Conrad dated 1/28/64 which set out the Commission's request for further examination of the assassination film and camera.

This study has been made by checking the film speed of the Zapruder camera at ten second intervals throughout the full running time of a fully wound camera. Several checks were made on a full roll of film and it was found that the film speed of the camera when fully wound runs at an average speed of from 18.0 to 18.1 frames per second (fps) for the first ten seconds. It gradually increases to 18.3 to 18.5 fps for the next 20 seconds, then gradually decreases slightly to 18.1 fps for ten seconds before the final 20 seconds that run at an average speed of 17.6 to 17.9 frames per second. Mr. Zapruder has stated that the camera was fully wound when he started filming the President's motorcade. Since all of Zapruder's assassination film was exposed well within the first half of time the camera will run on one winding, the run-down film speed should not be considered in the calculations. Therefore, the above figures result in our previous average frames per second speed for the assassination film of 18 1/3, or 18.3 frames per second.

RECOMMENDATION: That the attached letter be sent to Mr. J. Lee Rankin furnishing him with the results of the examination requested by the Commission.

62-109090

NOT RECORDED
9 FEB 6 1964 6 1964

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. Rosen (Mr. Malley)
1 - Mr. Callahan (Mr. Gauthier)

58 FEB 10 1964

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SIX

Enclosure (9)

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Section 3